

Remarks

Prior to the examination of this application on the merits, please amend claims as shown on pages 2-7 of this paper. Claims 36-70 were previously cancelled. With this amendment, Applicants cancel claims 17, 19, and 35 without prejudice. Applicants withdraw claims 21-29 and 34 as drawn to non-elected subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of cancelled or withdrawn claims in this or related applications. Applicants have amended claims 1, 30, 31, and 32, inserting the phrase "wherein the BAFF antagonist is selected from the group consisting of an anti BAFF receptor antibody and a soluble BAFF receptor." Support for the amendments to claims 1, 30, 31, and 32 can be found, for example, in paragraphs [0050] and [0052] of the specification.

The Examiner required restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121 between the following groups of claims:

- Group 1** Claims 1-17 and 30-35, drawn to a method of treating a patient having an immunological disorder comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of LymphoStat-B; and
- Group 2** Claims 1-16 and 18-35, drawn to a method of treating a patient having an immunological disorder comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a BAFF-specific antagonist.

Applicants note that LymphoStat-B is a species of BAFF-specific antagonist. Because the inventions of Group 1 and Group 2 therefore **do** relate to a single inventive

concept under PCT Rule 13.1, Applicants submit that the restriction requirement is improper. Nevertheless, in the interest of advancing the application to examination on the merits, Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute Group 2, claims 1-16 and 18-35, drawn to a method of treating a patient having an immunological disorder comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a BAFF-specific antagonist, without traverse.

With election of Group 2, the Examiner also required election of a species of BAFF antagonist as recited in claim 19. Applicants provisionally elect anti-BAFF receptor antibody. Claims 1-16, 18-20, and 30-33 are generic to and/or read on the elected species.


The Examiner also required election of a species of therapeutic condition as recited in claims 7-14. Applicants provisionally elect B cell hyperplasia. Claims 1-6, 8, 15-16, 18-20, and 30-33 are generic to and/or read on the elected species.

No fee is believed to be due with this response. However, in the event of an error, please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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